

Fire CIA's Colby as Unfit, Says Rocky Staff's Report

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By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, July 2 (News Bureau)—A Rockefeller Commission staff paper, which has not been made public, recommends that CIA Director William E. Colby be fired. The News learned today.



William E. Colby
Rapped for Viet slayings

The paper criticized Colby for his activities as the CIA agent in charge of a program in which thousands of Viet Cong were slain during the Vietnam war.

"Plainly Unlawful"

The commission, which investigated charges of CIA assassination attempts abroad and domestic buggings, break-ins and wiretapping, concluded in its public report that the CIA had committed some "plainly unlawful" acts.

But the panel did not recommend the dismissal of Colby, suggesting instead that in choosing a CIA director for a maximum 10-year term "consideration should be given to individuals from outside the career service."

President Ford said in an interview on Monday that there were "no plans" to replace Colby, but observed that the idea of picking a director from outside the agency has "considerable merit."

Colby, 55, has been a spy nearly all of his adult life, having served in the World War II Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA. He became head of the CIA in 1973 after years as a "dirty tricks" operative in Stockholm, Rome and Saigon.

Colby's supporters have argued that improper CIA activities took place before he was appointed chief and that he should not be blamed for them.

The unpublished Rockefeller Commission staff paper criticized Colby not so much for what he has done as director, but for his activities as head of a highly controversial South Vietnamese "pacification" program.

Colby has contended that the program, Operation Phoenix, was designed only to "neutralize" the Viet Cong, but has conceded that 20,000 persons were killed. He has insisted that most of the deaths took place under

combat conditions and could not be considered executions.

But the Rockefeller Commission staff report contends that Colby condoned murder and is not fit to head the CIA.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Secretary of State Kissinger, who also serves as President Ford's national security adviser, wants Colby ousted. A State Department spokesman denied the reports today.

"Years" Were Missing

The commission staff also scrutinized the activities of Richard Helms, Colby's predecessor as CIA director and now United States ambassador to Iran.

The investigation was hampered, one source said, because "whole years" were missing from the Helms file.

"It looked like a systematic effort to destroy anything important," the source said.

He Admits It

Colby has admitted ordering the destruction of records shortly after receiving a report from the inspector general of the CIA in 1973 that the agency had engaged in "illegal and improper activities."

Colby said he did so because he was "attempting to change the procedures of the agency... and to eliminate any holdings we had that we should not have had." Colby added: "I thought it best to let the misdeeds of the past sit quietly. I did not see that there was anything serious enough in there to warrant prosecution against any individual."